

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** March 1, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on February 27, 2002

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Thomas V. Skinner  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Partial Site Deletion (National Priorities List), Lake Linden Parcel and Operable Unit II, Torch Lake Superfund Site, Houghton County, Michigan**

On February 5, 2002, a notice of intent and a direct final notice for partial deletion from the National Priorities List (NPL) was published in the Federal Register for the Linden parcel and Operable Unit (OU) II of the Torch Lake Superfund site.

A Record of Decision (ROD) was completed to select remedial actions for OU I and OU III on September 30, 1992. A Record of Decision (ROD) was completed to select remedial actions for OU II on March 31, 1994. The remedies primarily address ecological impacts. The most significant ecological impact is the severe degradation of the benthic communities in Torch Lake as a result of metal loadings from the mine tailings. The remedial action required that the contaminated stamp sands (tailings) and slag piles contributing to site-specific ecological risks at the Torch Lake Superfund site (OU I & OU III) be covered with a soil and vegetative cover as identified in the RODs for this site and as documented in the Final Design Document, dated September 10, 1998. No further response action was selected for OU II. OU II will be allowed to undergo natural recovery and detoxification. In addition, the RODs for OU I and OU III required long-term monitoring of Torch Lake to assess the natural recovery and detoxification process after the remedy was implemented. It was assumed that other affected water bodies would respond as well, or better, than Torch Lake to the implemented remedy. A final design for OU I and OU III was completed in September 1998. Also in September 1998, the United States Environmental Protection

Agency (U.S. EPA) obligated \$15.2 million for the implementation of the selected remedies for OU I and OU III. As of January 1, 2002, nearly all of OU I remedial action work has been completed for a total of approximately 500 acres stabilized with soil and vegetation. The Lake Linden parcel (about 114 acres) is included on OU I.

Contacts: Steven Padovani (312-352-6755)  
Gladys Beard (312-886-7253)

#### **Settlement, Luigino's Inc., Duluth, Minnesota**

On February 21, 2002, U.S. EPA entered into a Consent Agreement and Final Order to resolve a complaint issued on December 3, 2001, against this facility assessing \$51,126 in penalties. The complaint was issued for failing to submit a Hazardous Chemical Inventory form (Tier II) to the State Emergency Response Commission and the Duluth Minnesota Fire Department as required under Section 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) for the 1996, 1997, and 1998 calendar years. Luigino's was storing more than 9,000 pounds of ammonia, an extremely hazardous substance, with a 500-pound threshold limit for reporting. Luigino's will pay a civil penalty of \$38,350.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

### **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

#### **Noteworthy Media Call, Brownfields Early Action Section**

On February 27, 2002, Brownfields and Early Action Section Chief Joe Dufficy talked to WCPN-FM/Cleveland National Public Radio (NPR) station about potential U.S. EPA involvement scenarios in the event LTV Steel completely ceases operations. Mr. Dufficy covered the typical circumstances that activate Federal involvement and how Brownfields resources can be leveraged to move public/private redevelopment forward.

This story has also generated calls from other reporters in Cleveland in recent months. The broadcast with Cleveland NPR could conceivably lead to additional inquiries.

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cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)

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